



Career Opportunities

About the Texas Animal Health Commission

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), one of the oldest state regulatory agencies, was founded in 1893 by the legislature with a mission to combat the fever tick that plagued the Texas cattle industry.

Today, the agency protects the health and enhances the marketability of all Texas livestock, exotic livestock and poultry, including:

- cattle
- swine
- poultry
- sheep & goats
- equine
- exotic fowl
- exotic livestock (exotic bovidae, cervidae and camlids)

The TAHC has legislative authority to regulate the prevention, control and/or eradication of specific contagious or infectious diseases in livestock and poultry. The TAHC staff also works to keep foreign and emerging animal diseases from becoming a major livestock and poultry health hazard.

The TAHC regulations are made and adopted by 13 governor-appointed commissioners who serve six-year staggered terms. The commissioners meet as needed to study the regulatory needs of the agency, review public comments on proposed regulation changes and adopt new rules.

The day-to-day operations are run by the Executive Director who is also the State Veterinarian. The TAHC headquarters are in Austin, Texas. Seven regional offices are strategically located across the state so that the TAHC staff can work closely with veterinarians, ranchers, livestock markets, slaughter plants and other livestock industry representatives.

Because many of the state's livestock and poultry health programs coincide with those required by the federal government, the TAHC staff members often work closely with personnel from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS).

TAHC Team

The agency employs staff in several career fields; licensed veterinarians, epidemiologists, livestock inspectors, legal staff, emergency management personnel, laboratory staff and administrative support personnel.

Veterinarians and Epidemiologists

Region directors are veterinarians in charge of each of the seven TAHC regional offices. Region directors perform veterinary and administrative management duties.

TAHC epidemiologists are veterinarians who focus on disease transmission and eradication. They work to find the source of infectious diseases in animals, locate animals that may have been exposed to disease and determine the best course of action to reduce or eliminate the disease from the population.

Livestock Inspectors

Livestock inspectors are the "hands-on" team members. They work at livestock markets, feedlots, and slaughter plants, and test for diseases on local ranches. Their duties include collecting diagnostic samples from livestock and poultry, inspecting regulated facilities, enforcing movement restrictions on diseased or exposed animals, performing road stops to enforce state entry requirements and ensure that agency regulations, in general, are followed. Inspectors also play a critical role in responding to natural disaster events and disease outbreaks affecting livestock and/or poultry.

Emergency Management Personnel

The emergency management staff is responsible for planning response to disease outbreaks in livestock and poultry, and natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires that impact animals. The TAHC is designated by the Governor as the lead agency for all animal issues related to disease or natural disasters. Agency emergency response activities include working with local, state and federal officials, as well as the public. Emergency management personnel address evacuation and sheltering needs for Texas animals, direct field personnel in assisting affected veterinary practitioners in natural disasters, performing damage assessments and providing expertise and advice related to carcass disposal.

Legal and Compliance

The legal and compliance department employs attorneys, a legal assistant and compliance officers. These individuals work together with the TAHC field staff to enforce agency regulations, write and serve demand and warning letters to violators, file complaints in J.P. court, perform roadblocks and assist in emergency management operations.

Laboratory Personnel

Laboratory technicians and microbiologists support several animal health programs by performing a variety of specialized tests on blood, milk and tissue samples. Laboratory staff also identifies pests, including ticks. TAHC participates in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

Administrative and Support Personnel

Administrative and support personnel perform management and clerical-related work to run effective and efficient day to day activities.

Departments under this umbrella include:

- Human Resources
- Communications and Public Relations
- Finance
- Information Technology
- Purchasing
- Program Records/Permits
- Staff Services

The TAHC's employee benefits include a career ladder program, vacation and sick leave, paid holidays, insurance, a retirement program and longevity pay. For information about employment with the agency, contact:

Texas Animal Health Commission

Human Resources

P.O. Box 12966

Austin, TX. 78711-2966

Phone: 1-800-550-8242

Web: www.tahc.state.tx.us

 Facebook: www.facebook.com/TexasAHC

 Twitter: www.twitter.com/TAHC

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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests for reasonable accommodation needed during the application process should be communicated by the applicant to the Human Resources Department.

